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## **Wastewater Permit Information Exchange Database**

The Department of Natural Resources announces the availability of a newly developed online database for NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits. These permits regulate pollutants discharged to Iowa's waters by point sources such as municipal sewage treatment plants, industries, and businesses.

The online NPDES permit database is titled WWPIE, which stands for Wastewater Permit Information Exchange. WWPIE can be used by anyone who has access to the internet. Users will be able to search the database to read or download any final NPDES permit for any wastewater facility anywhere in Iowa. Draft permits that are put on public notice after September 15, 2008 will also be available for online review or download. Users can also register to perform more advanced functions with the database.

### **Roles or capabilities of the three classes of registered users:**

1. Registered Users can save search criteria, request email notifications when permits are put on public notice, and submit comments online.
2. In addition to all the rights of a Registered User, a Registered Applicant can complete permit applications online.
3. In addition to all the rights of a Registered User, a Registered Signatory can sign, pay for, and submit permit applications online.

### **Facilities with current NPDES permits:**

Effective September 16, 2008, permit renewal notices that are sent to facilities whose permits are up for renewal will direct the applicants to the WWPIE website to apply for permit renewals online. Paper application forms will still be accepted but online applications are strongly encouraged to improve permitting process efficiency. As always, NPDES permit writers will be available to answer questions to help the facilities in completing their application forms. Online on-demand training for permit applicants will also be provided so that applicants can learn how to complete permit applications online without the need to travel to another location for training. The instructions for the database use can be found at:

<http://www.iowadnr.com/water/npdes/files/wwpie.pdf>

The online database is at: <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/wwpie/>

Further questions regarding this database can be addressed to Tom Atkinson at 515-281-5054, Courtney Cswercko at 515-281-7206, or Angela Chen at 515-281-4736.

## **EPC Approved Second Quarter Updates to the IUP**

The Environmental Protection Commission unanimously approved the second quarter updates to the FY 2009 Intended Use Plans for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The updates and the approved project lists are on-line at [www.iowasrf.com](http://www.iowasrf.com), click on FY 2009 Intended Use Plans. Questions regarding the SRF program can be directed to Patti Cale-Finnegan at [patti.cale-finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:patti.cale-finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov) or by phone at (515) 725-0498.

## **Clean Watershed Needs Survey**

The IDNR has been conducting a Clean Watershed Needs Survey since late spring of this year. The Department, in partnership with Iowa State University, has been sending out survey forms to all communities and publicly owned wastewater facilities. The purpose of this survey is to include Iowa's clean watershed needs in an EPA report to the US Congress. A "need" is a cost estimate for capital improvements associated with prevention or abatement of a public health or water quality problem. This survey is currently conducted nationwide in all 50 states and territories. The survey cost estimates may be used by Congress to appropriate funds and allocate them among the states. Information submitted will not be used or shared for any other purposes other than for assessing and planning for Iowa's water quality and public health cost needs. Cost estimates in the report are listed as aggregated estimates of communities. Individual cost estimates will not be identified in the report. This is important since many facilities still need to refine their actual recommended improvements.

DNR asks communities that have received survey forms to please respond as soon as possible. Instructions for survey responses are included in the forms. Some communities use professional assistance to provide their best response although this is not required. Since the survey is a 100% survey, all cities and publicly owned treatment facilities should have received the form. To accurately reflect Iowa's total wastewater needs, communities that have NOT received or do not recall receiving a survey form, are asked to contact our ISU partner listed below. ALSO, communities who have previously responded but whose needs have since been affected by the floods of 2008 are invited to update or change their needs. Please contact our ISU partner. The ISU contact is Dr. Say Kee Ong and can be reached at: [skong@iastate.edu](mailto:skong@iastate.edu) or at 515-294-3927.